

## State Superintendent's Student Advisory Board

Fall 2011

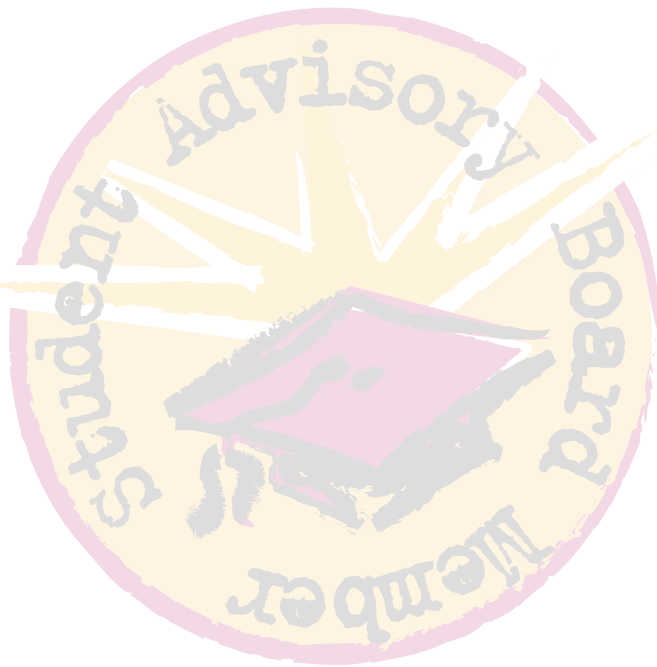


The Student Advisory Board is part of Graduation Matters Montana, an initiative to increase the number of Montana students who graduate from high school through collaborative partnerships with schools, community organizations, businesses and youth.



2011 2012

Superintendent Denise Juneau



2011 2012

Superintendent Denise Juneau

*"Students are counting on us to set high expectations for them, provide them with opportunities to explore their career interests and open up doors to mentors while they are in high school. As adults, we need to work together to break down the barriers our students face in achieving their dreams in order to create a brighter economic future for all Montanans."*

*Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau*



**2011 2012**  
Superintendent Denise Juneau

State Superintendent Denise Juneau's 2011-2012 Student Advisory Board (SAB), consisting of 40 high school students from 30 schools, convened for the first of two summits on November 9-10, 2011, in Helena, Montana.

Members of the SAB were nominated by local school and community leaders. The students bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the SAB discussions, and include students who have considered dropping out as well as students who excel in school.

Board members and their chaperones gathered at Exploration Works for a welcoming reception and to view the science exhibits on Wednesday, November 9. The students enjoyed desserts created by the Helena High Culinary Arts Club, an example of students gaining real-world experiences while in high school.

The following day, the SAB gathered at the UM-Helena College of Technology (UM COT) campus for a full-day summit on the topic of being college and career ready. They prepared for the discussion prior to the summit by asking their fellow classmates a set of critical questions provided by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). In addition to advising State Superintendent Juneau, they participated in presentations by the Student Assistance Foundation, UM TRiO, and heard from Dean Daniel Bingham of the UM COT and Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns.

The SAB provided Superintendent Juneau advice on how schools can better prepare high school students to be ready for college and/or careers upon graduation.





## Creating a School Culture that Promotes Higher Education

SAB members expressed their desire to be college-ready, but they also feel unprepared and aren't sure what "college-readiness" means. Students stated that they wanted to hear more from adults about what the college experience will be like and wanted discussions related to higher education to start early, in junior high rather than high school. SAB members were quick to point out that not all students have family members or adults in their life who have attended college and could offer insight and support about what they should expect. Students noted urban schools have a greater variety of courses but rural students often had more opportunities through school to visit colleges.

### Research

- According to Education Week, a rise in college and career readiness programs shows middle school is a key time to improve the academics and attitudes needed to succeed in high school, college and beyond.
- Statistics from the National Student Clearinghouse show for the class of 2009 in Montana 60.9 percent of high school student's continue on to college within 16 months.
- The Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) found 75 percent of the fastest-growing jobs in Montana will require an associate's degree and only 27 percent of undergraduates attend two-year colleges, compared with nearly 53 percent throughout the nation. To address this need, OCHE created College!NOW, which will make two-year college more accessible, better coordinated, better understood and, as a result, better used statewide.
- According to the College Board, in school year 2011-12, public four-year colleges charge, on average, \$8,244 in tuition and fees for in-state students. At two-year colleges, the average price for tuition and fees is \$2,963.

### The SAB Recommendations

- Inform students earlier in their schooling about the requirements to enter so college they can better prepare.
- Emphasize that all post-secondary education is valuable, not just a four-year bachelor's degree.
- Encourage adults to share with students what the college experience is like.
- Guidance counselors, teachers and mentors should assist students with the college application process, financial aid, scholarships, and career counseling.
- Provide students with opportunities to visit college campuses and college fairs.



## Challenging Students with Rigorous and Relevant Course Work

According to the OCHE, college-ready is defined as “the level of academic preparation necessary to successfully complete entry level college courses that are required for a degree.” In Montana, the 2011 My Voice Survey found that 92 percent of our students are confident and optimistic about their future, but many lack skills to implement strategies needed to reach their dreams. The SAB members wanted their high school experience to feel comparable to college rather than middle school. They seek course work relevant to their lives.

### Research

- The College Board Advocacy and Policy Center found that 8 out of 10 counselors report that a top mission of schools should be to ensure that all students complete 12<sup>th</sup> grade ready to succeed in college and careers, but only 30 percent of counselors see this as their school’s mission.
- The new Montana Common Core Standards require that courses across content areas include the reading and discussion of informational texts to increase critical thinking skills of students and prepare them for college and careers.
- Advanced Placement classes help high school students prepare for college. In 2010, only one in five high school students took Advanced Placement exams.

### The SAB Recommendations

- Better prepare students for the transition between high school and college by offering more courses that more closely mirror the rigors of college.
- Make current event discussions a greater part of classes to help students tie what they’re learning to the world around them.





## Exploring Careers in High School

Successful education and career transitions are important to realizing both personal goals along with state and national economic and workforce objectives. The SAB members emphasized that they want to see what jobs are “actually like” along with more “real life classes” allowing them to explore career options and to gain financial literacy skills.

### Research

- In the 2010-11 academic year, students who were Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators defined as a 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Montana who have completed at least three credits of any CTE program had a 96.5 percent graduation rate.
- America’s Promise report, Every Child Every Promise, states that 8 percent of young people ages 6 to 17 have access to a formal mentor and 42 percent of young people wish they had more caring adults to whom they could turn for help.
- The Association for Career and Technical Education found that work-based learning experiences like internships, job shadowing, community service projects and youth apprenticeships can help students make career decisions, network with potential employers, select courses of study and develop job skills relevant to future employment.

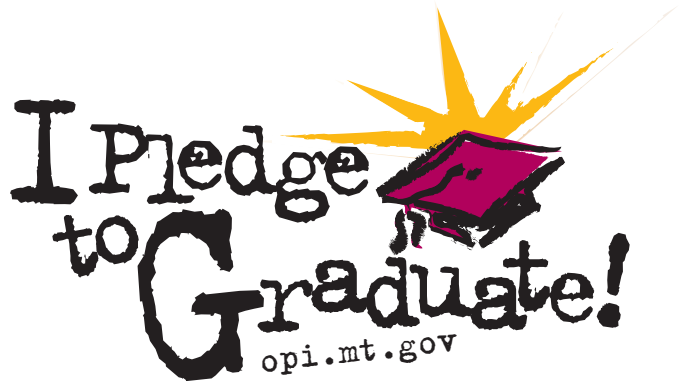
### The SAB Recommendations

- Provide more career-focused course work and financial literacy courses.
- Provide students opportunities to work on soft skills and writing and verbal communication in the workforce (i.e., job interviews, job applications).
- Increase opportunities for students to have actual experiences in the work force and open doors for students to mentors in their communities.



## I Pledge to Graduate

The 2010–2011 SAB suggested that the OPI launch an “I Pledge to Graduate” initiative, in which students pledge to graduate, identify a personal reason for their pledge, and have a trusted adult sign the pledge. The OPI launched the “I Pledge to Graduate” initiative in Fall 2011, and since then, over a thousand Montana students have taken the pledge.



## Students Pledge at the Summit

- All SAB members signed an “I Pledge to Graduate” card and received a Graduation Matters Montana wristband from Superintendent Juneau.
- SAB members are distributing I Pledge Cards to students in their schools and encouraging students to pledge online at: <http://graduationmatters.mt.gov/>.
- A Graduation Matters Montana facebook page was created to allow SAB members to share their experiences through social media.

Superintendent Juneau and SAB members will reconvene for the spring summit on April 10, and April 11, 2012, at Montana State University in Bozeman.

## References

- “Average College Tuition Cost.” College Admissions - SAT - University & College Search Tool. College Board’s Trends in College Pricing 2011 and Trends in Student Aid, 2011. Web. 17 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/add-it-up/4494.html>>.
- Cech, John E. “College!Now Increasing Awareness of Use of Montana’s Two-Year Colleges.” Montana University System | Montana Colleges, Universities and Community Colleges. Oct. 2011. Web. 01 Dec. 2011. <<http://www.mus.edu/data/briefs/one-page-briefs.asp>>.
- College Board. AP Report to the Nation. Rep. Vol. 8th Annual. San Jose: Western Regional Office, 2012.
- Fleming, Nora. “Education Week: Middle Schoolers Getting Prepped for College.” Education Week American Education News Site of Record. 29 Nov. 2011. Web. 01 Dec. 2011. <[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/11/29/13middle\\_ep.h31.html?tkn=YYBFmkkfXPc/q4x7wHyTek7LmZeB3uR/MTaa](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/11/29/13middle_ep.h31.html?tkn=YYBFmkkfXPc/q4x7wHyTek7LmZeB3uR/MTaa)>.
- Montana Office of Public Instruction. Perkins IV Accountability Data - Performance Indicators. Rep. 2011. Print.
- National Student Clearing House, comp. College Going Rates. Rep. 2009. Print.
- “NOSCA Annual Survey - College Board - Advocacy | NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy.”
- NOSCA: National Office for School Counselor Advocacy. Web. 01 Dec. 2011. <<http://nosca.collegeboard.org/research-policies/annual-survey>>.
- Powell, Alma J. “Every Child Every Promise Turning Failure into Action.” America’s Promise. America’s Promise - The Alliance for Youth, 2006. Web. 17 Feb. 2012. <[http://www.americaspromise.org/Resources/Partner-Resources/~/\\_media/Files/About/ECEP%20-%20Full%20Report.ashx](http://www.americaspromise.org/Resources/Partner-Resources/~/_media/Files/About/ECEP%20-%20Full%20Report.ashx)>.
- “The Role of Career Academies in Education Improvement.” Issue Briefs. Association for Career and Technical Education, Mar. 2009. Web. Dec. 2011. <[http://www.actonline.org/uploadedFiles/Publications\\_and\\_Online\\_Media/files/Career\\_academies.pdf](http://www.actonline.org/uploadedFiles/Publications_and_Online_Media/files/Career_academies.pdf)>.
- Tyler, Trevor. “College Readiness.” Montana University System | Montana Colleges, Universities and Community Colleges. 05 Oct. 2011. Web. 01 Dec. 2011. <<http://www.mus.edu/data/briefs/one-page-briefs.asp>>.





## 2010-2011 State Superintendent's Student Advisory Board Members

### Returning Members:

Aurora Hurlburt	Sunburst High School
Cody Hill	Whitefish Independent High School
Derek DeShazer	Lincoln County High School
Elizabeth Grandchamp	Glasgow High School
Emma	Bigfork High School
Jeanne Breakall	Twin Bridges High School
John Barlow	Park High School
Kaitlynn Lynch	Lincoln Public School
Katherine Hibbs	Roberts High School
McKenzie Kralich	UM-Helena Access to Success
Michael Devlin	Polson High School
Michelle Mulligan	Glasgow High School
Nichole Fullbright	Fergus High School
Sapphire Carter	Rocky Boy High School
Taylor Spotted Horse	Rocky Boy High School
Tyus Rock Above	Billings Senior High School
Walt Zeimer	Wibaux County High School

### New Members:

Austin Gabelt	Simms High School
Casey Ribaudo	Cascade High School
Catherine Cybulski	Custer High School
Christopher Nelson	Lincoln Public School
Cole Krenik	Billings West High School
Danika Fabich	Anaconda High School
Garrett Lankford	C.M. Russell High School
Holly Capp	Great Falls High School
Iko'tsimiskimaki (Ekoo) Beck	Hellgate High School
Jess Cunningham	Hysham High School
Jocelyn Acheson	Wolf Point High School
Larry Bratke	Bozeman High School
Mariah Hamel	Polson High School
Marielle Gallagher	Hellgate High School
Meg MacLean	Hamilton High School
Natalie McAlpine	Valier High School
Nathaniel Field	Belgrade High School
Nicole Ribeiro	Thompson Falls High School
Reed Lone Fight	Bozeman High School
Ronson LaRoque	Plenty Coups High School
Ryan Vicek	Alberton High School
Simon Doney	Fergus High School
Trevor Watts	Custer County High School

